

REMARKS

The claims were all rejected in the above-identified Office Action as being obvious in view of a hypothetical combination of the cited Takizawa and Ukita patents. By this response, however, independent Claim 1 has been amended and is believed to be patentably distinct over the prior art for the reasons set forth below.

Initially, it is pointed out that Claim 1 requires an image pickup apparatus having a color filter array (e.g., shown in Fig. 4) of four filters, having a periodicity unit of two rows x two columns. Also, the apparatus includes an operation circuit which provides at least two different color difference signals using all the pixels included in the periodicity unit (e.g., the 1st and 4th-7th read-out methods of the first embodiment).

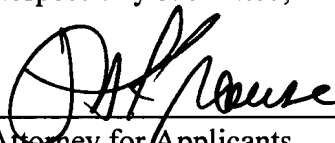
These requirements of amended Claim 1 are not disclosed in the cited Takizawa and Ukita patents. Specifically, Takizawa fails to disclose an operation unit which provides color difference signals, as is noted at page 3 of the Office Action. Furthermore, the cited Ukita patent discloses a CCD having a color filter array including a periodicity unit of four rows x two columns (e.g., Fig. 2), and discloses an operation providing two color difference signals from signals of four (2x2) color filters (e.g., the dotted line in Fig. 2) around a subject pixel (e.g., the solid line circle in Fig. 2). This four color filter pattern may be included in the periodicity unit or may overlap with it, depending on the position of the subject pixel. Therefore, the cited Ukita patent fails to disclose the

an operation providing two color difference signals using all the pixels included in the periodicity unit of the color filter array.

For these various reasons Applicants believe that all of the claims as now presented are allowable, wherefore the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Krause", is written over a horizontal line.

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